



## **Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: November 13, 2018

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Bill Copithorne, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Pamela Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Jeffrey Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Scott Smith

Members Missing: Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, Corey Rateau

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***Howard Muise called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.***

**Public Comments:** About 18 members of the public living near and along Hayes Street discussed safety concerns due to cut through traffic on Hayes Street and lack of traffic control at the Mystic Lake Drive and Maynard Street intersections. They requested consideration of a four-way STOP control at the Hayes Street intersections. They indicated that traffic has been backing up at the roundabout and drivers are using Hayes Street as an alternate route between Mystic Valley Parkway and Medford Street. Concerns include accidents at the intersection resulting from lack of traffic control at the intersections, and speeds along Hayes Street. Visibility at the intersections is limited by the hilly terrain and on-street parking, and because of no traffic control some drivers fail to slow and yield to conflicting traffic. Howard advised the group that STOP control is used to clearly mark who has the right-of-way at intersections and not used as a means of controlling speeds.

**Administration:** Minutes of October 10, 2018 were approved unanimously. There was correspondence for the previous month distributed, including a TAC working group review of the Arlington High School Traffic Impact Study provided to the Town Manager; a request for traffic calming on Thorndike Street at Magnolia Park; and a memo from the TAC Chair to Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager, responding to traffic referrals from him for TAC Analysis. The Individual Action List and Active Projects List were distributed. Chuck Giroux and Jeff Maxtutis were nominated by the chair fill vacancies on TAC. Brian Kmetz was nominated to be the School Committee representative.

### **Transportation Advisory Committee Members:**

Daniel Amstutz (Planning), Wayne Chouinard (Public Works), Lenard Diggins, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon (Secretary), Pamela Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Jeffery Maxtutis, Howard Muise (Chair), Officer Corey Rateau (Police), and Scott Smith

**Web site: [www.arlingtonma.gov/tac](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/tac)**

**Town Issues and Activities:**

Bill Copithorne distributed a memo on DPW project updates:

- An additional bike lane and bike path markings will be installed as part of the Arlington Center Safe Travel Project in spring 2019.
- 100% design plans have been received for the Lake Street/Minuteman Bikeway improvements. A capital request was submitted for 2019 Spring Town Meeting.
- The design process is ongoing for the Mystic Street Bridge. The \$600,000 sewer siphon rebuild contract has been awarded.
- Miscellaneous items included sidewalk and ramp construction, rehabilitation pavement preservation, and the pavement condition survey that is underway.
- Jeff Maxtutis noted that projects for the Complete Streets prioritization could be reorganized but not added within five years of the initial list of projects.

Daniel Amstutz noted several items:

- The Town is exploring the MPO/TIP process for funding for the Lake St./Minuteman bikeway signal.
- The Maynard/Hayes intersection is an example of potential traffic calming. The Town will be considering traffic calming more generally over the next few months.
- MAPC and participant towns discussed the Lime bike program. The bikes will stay available over the winter but will be reduced in number. They will be removed during major snow events.
- A number of funding sources were discussed during the Moving Together conference, including Safe Routes to School, and Signs & Lines. Both are taking applications. Jeff Maxtutis recommended applying for Stratton School, and offered to help with the applications.
- The State Bicycle Plan Bikability Guide is out for review and will be committing funding. The Lake St. signal would be a candidate for this funding.

**Mass Ave BRT Pilot:**

Daniel Amstutz gave an update on the BRT Pilot, which is now over. The final BRT forum will be held on November 14. The Pilot was successful, with average savings of approximately five minutes per trip, with the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of savings closer to 9-10 minutes. There was limited opposition during the Pilot, and comments were addressed mostly during the adjustment period. The dedicated lane is the only part that will not be continued following the end of the Pilot. Lane assignments and signal phasing will remain at the Alewife Brook Parkway intersection, as will the relocated bus stop at Lake St. and the queue jump lanes. Scott Smith and Howard Muise suggested additional consideration of a shelter at the relocated Lake St. bus stop. Daniel Amstutz noted that there will be a report about what could be done permanently following the Pilot, and will consider the dedicated bus lane.

**Speed Safety Zones Menotomy Rocks Park:**

Corey Rateau will conduct new counts along Jason Street to understand speeds in the area of the entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park.

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**TAC Social:**

Howard Muise will check availability of the venue for January 9, 2019.

**Arlington High School Traffic Review:**

Howard Muise noted a working group consisting of Jeff Maxtutis, Melissa Laube and himself had reviewed the AHS Traffic Impact Analysis for the Town Manager. They reported that all alternatives used the back of the school for drop-off/pick-up as well as the location for most of the vehicular and bike parking. There will be a new connection for bikes and pedestrians between the school and Minuteman Bikeway. There was limited evaluation of new signals, key corridors, and potential circulation conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians at the back of the school. It was not clear if traffic circulation behind the school was one-way or two-way.

**Traffic Calming at Thorndike Street Entrance to Magnolia Park:**

TAC received a request to consider traffic calming measures along Thorndike Street at the entrance to Magnolia Park. The members discussed whether this area is used as a drop-off and pick-up location for Alewife Station. Dan Amstutz will meet with the resident who requested consideration of traffic calming to better understand the issue in the area.

**Crosswalk Guidelines:**

Scott Smith presented a draft update of the TAC crosswalk guidelines in response to a discussion of the existing guidelines at the October meeting. TAC will vote on adopting the revised Crosswalk Guidelines at the next meeting when Corey Rateau is present to account for any comments on behalf of APD. Dan Amstutz will review the Guidelines more closely and send additional comments to Scott Smith and Howard Muise. TAC will use the revised guidelines to evaluate the requests for crosswalks on Academy Street at Maple Street and on Medford Street at the Webcowet Rd/Hamilton St. intersection.

**Crosswalk on Summer at Buzzell Field/Victoria Street:**

Corey Rateau and Wayne Chouinard will conduct a site visit and consider potential parking adjustments and/or relocations to improve visibility in this area.

**Crosswalk at Academy at Maple:**

See above note on Crosswalk Guidelines. Additionally, Howard Muise will request that Corey Rateau collect traffic volumes and speeds.

**Crosswalk on Medford at Webcowet/Hamilton:**

See above note on Crosswalk Guidelines. Scott Smith suggested the consideration of a pedestrian refuge island on Medford St. Howard Muise will get a count on Medford St. and will also look at bus volumes. The count would be conducted around 7:00 a.m.

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**Stop Signs on Hayes at Maynard/Mystic Lake:**

TAC formed a working group of Corey Rateau, Wayne Chouinard, Dan Amstutz, Jeff Maxtutis, and Chuck Giroux to evaluate the request described under Public Comment above.

**Entry Restriction on Glenburn at Park:**

Bill Copithorne will follow up with Wayne Chouinard to resend counts to Howard Muise.

**School Issues/Pedestrian Flags:**

There was nothing to report on this item.

**Traffic Calming on Kensington Park:**

Howard Muise will request counts from Corey Rateau.

**Appleton Street/Paul Revere Road:**

Howard Muise will use a vendor to get counts at this intersection to see if a warrant would be met for a traffic signal.

**Safe Pedestrian Access at Bus Stops:**

Howard Muise is working through the spreadsheets and will meet with Melissa Laube to review. Howard Muise will send Dan Amstutz a memo on this topic that Laura Weiner previously sent to the MBTA.

***Howard Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.***

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